

## Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 251646 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2134

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07306

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, EG, UK

SUBJECT: JORDAN' S FEARS ABOUT EGYPT

REF: AMMAN 3263; STATE 119011; CAIRO 1849

1. DURING CONVERSATION JUNE 22 FCO' S PARSONS EXPRESSED OPINION THAT ZAYYAT IS STEADFASTLY AND QUITE EFFECTIVELY PURSUING HIS GOAL OF CUTTING EGYPTIAN- ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP OFF FROM LARGER PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, TO GIVE EGYPT GREATER FREEDOM IN REACHING SEPARATE SOLUTION. HE HAS FOUND USEFUL ARGUMENT IN DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRE-1948 MANDATED PALESTINE AND EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. HE IS CURRENTLY USING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN HOMELAND TO DIVERT PALESTINIAN ATTENTION FROM WHAT HE IS DOING.

2. JORDANIANS QUITE JUSTIFIABLY FEAR THIS PLOY, PARSONS SAID. HE INDICATED THEY HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING SAME FEARS TO BRITISH THAT THEY HAVE TO US. BRITISH HAVE GIVEN VAGUELY REASSURING ANSWERS. THERE IS LITTLE JORDANIANS CAN DO ABOUT IT, HOWEVER, SINCE EGYPTIANS CARE SO LITTLE ABOUT WHAT JORDANIANS THINK.

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3. PARSONS DISCOUNTED ARGUMENT THAT EGYPTIANS MAY BE TRYING TO STRENGTHEN MODERATES OVER EXTREMISTS IN PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP. HE DID NOT SEE HOW THIS IS FEASIBLE AND THOUGHT EGYPTIANS IN THEIR PRESENT MOOD ARE NOT MUCH BOTHERED BY EXTREMIST PALESTINIAN OPERATIONS ANYWAY.

4. IN REPLY TO OUR QUERY HE EXPRESSED DOUBT KING HUSSEIN COULD REACH AGREEMENT WITH ISRAELIS ANY TIME SOON EVEN IF EGYPTIANS SHOULD - MAINLY BECAUSE OF JERUSALEM. HE THOUGHT JORDANIAN ANALYSIS IS THAT ONLY GREAT POWERS CAN APPLY LEVERAGE TO PERMIT SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, AND GREAT POWER READINESS TO HELP IS LIKELY TO EVAPORATE ONCE DANGER OF INVOLVEMENT IN RENEWED OUTBREAK OF ISRAELI- EGYPTIAN HOSTILITIES HAS DISAPPEARED. PARSONS THINKS THIS PICTURE PRETTY ACCURATE.

5. PARSONS SAID FCO HAD CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF MAKING SOME PRIVATE OR PUBLIC STATEMENT TO JORDANIANS IN SUPPORT OF UNITED ARAB KINGDOM PLAN AS WAY OF HELPING TO REASSURE THEM. BRITISH HAVE DECIDED AGAINST IT, HOWEVER, BOTH BECAUSE JORDANIANS KEEP SAYING HOW WELL THINGS ARE GOING FOR UAK IN ABSENCE OF ANY GREAT POWER STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT, AND BECAUSE JORDANIAN AS WELL AS PALESTINIAN OPINION IS SPLIT ON UAK ISSUE.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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